

VYTS WILL BE IN THE FOLLOWING PLACES

Incomplete List

Toronto, Canada, Sept. 5-7.
Wilmington-Arden, Del. — Sept. 11.
Baltimore, YWCA — Sept. 15.
Philadelphia, F. D. Center — Sept. 21.
Washington, D. C., Pierce Hall — September 28.
Rochester, N. Y. YWCA, Oct. 7
Penn. State University Oct 11-12.
Pittsburgh U, Stephen Foster, Mem. — Oct. 13.
Muskingum College, New Oxford, Ohio — Oct. 16.
Cleveland, Univ. Church — Oct. 17.
Kent State Univ., Kent, Ohio — Oct. 18-19.
Detroit Area — October 26 weekend.
Chicago Univ., International House, — Nov. 2.

FOLK DANCE FOUNDATION ORGANIZED

A project of interest to all folk dancers is about to be launched. Herman Rottenberg, of New York City, organized the INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOUNDATION, INC., which will be an institution devoted to encouraging an interest in folk dancing in the USA and throughout the world.

The Foundation, which will be a non-profit organization, will lend financial support to teachers and groups who qualify.

Additional information will be made available in the next issue of VILTS.

ALLIANCE OF SLAVS FORMED IN PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh, Pa. — A Pan-Slavic Alliance is being organized in this area. Headed by John H. Radzyminski, the citizens of Slavic descent propose the following purposes:

- To encourage friendship and social relations among the members;
- To encourage the development of the qualities of leadership among Slavic people;
- To support and aid Slavic people to advance their social, economic, and political aspirations;
- To share and enjoy Slavic culture, folkways and traditions consistent with the principles and purposes of American democracy;
- To participate in the best civic spirit of the community and to support the efforts of the USA government.

Albert S. Pill will be travelling to Mexico via Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. He will be available for institutes and workshops on Mexican Regional Dance for schools or folk dance clubs from September 16-30. Write: ALBERT S. PILL, 233 Calle Miramar, Redondo Beach, California.

GREETINGS TO VILTS

Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Gould. Los Angeles, Calif.

A couple of years ago Bernie Kosnick introduced me to your fine magazine. Now it is my turn to introduce VILTS to someone else who will greatly enjoy it. VILTS has been a tremendous resource for me — when working with folk dancers, with home economics extension groups in Bay County. This year the groups are studying Scandinavian Foods and customs. As home agent it is my job to prepare accurate lesson materials for them. VILTS has been a goldmine for me.

Audrey O'Meara
Bay City, Michigan

TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SETTLED THESE UNITED STATES:

We offer greetings.

Ours is a weak voice these days, but Indians never confused friendship with numbers. In the days when strength was ours, to offer friendship or without it, we never hesitated or made it conditional. Therefore, we can speak friendship now and feel no abashment.

Perhaps you will recall that fathers of ours were on the Massachusetts Coast, watching that First Ship. They were there on the sloping shingle looking curiously, then advancing under a peaceful sign. Not that one time only. Off the coast of Virginia. Off Florida. Off Mexico. Off the jewel islands of the Caribbean. Our Indian forefathers asked nothing for what they gave, and indeed what they gave was often incompensable.

Let it not be thought that they held in cheap esteem the meadow shores, the planted fields and timbered slopes which they offered to share. The time would come when their eyes would sicken with longing for what they could no longer see. They shared what was dearest of all to them and never questioned their wisdom, not in those first days.

Need we recite what was in that sharing? Passamaquoddy to Okeechobee. Monogahela. Susquehanna. Tombigbee. Shenandoah. Water and green hills. Hardwood leaves flashing the sun. Cove waters startled by waterfowl rising at dawn. Big eyed deer at edge of a glade. Depths of humus in the river bottoms.

Not an untouched land. Not a misprized land. A million people had their plantings here. They knew the uses of forest and stream. Their commerce knew the farthest traces eastward and westward, north and south. They mined and quarried. They left their monuments in many liveable valleys.

Not on untouched land, but unspoiled.

Now, it has seemed to us many times that the land has not been cherished as we cherished it. We have not minded the scars that came inevitably in making room for a greater body of people. We understood the crowding necessity out of which these people were pressed upon us. We saw the forests felled, the waters diverted, the meadows crushed under the weight of cities. We saw the purpose in that. What we could not understand, and have never forgiven is the carelessness, or foolishness, which traded beauty for ugliness; which destroyed a forest to leave an emptiness. Which turned a green mountain valley into a slag pile. We have hated to see mud silted streams. We have been sickened by the sight of lands in which the gift of fertility has been killed.

These are grievous injuries, but the greatest hurt we have had to bear, we, who offered the first peace and asylum, is the hardness of heart which grows of late years. We made no condition, claimed no reverter. Ours were dark skins, but we desired no preference for other dark skins. Even less would we have placed one paleface before another on account of variations of belief. Our fathers lived close to holy things but never argued systems.

Our greeting, as you will gather now, is spoken in part out of sadness. In the name of our fathers we ask, who among us conveyed the right to adulterate feelings which ought to be between man and man as brothers? If it was not our conveyancing, then he was a shameless guest who first came here bagged with intolerance.

We are a small people now and no longer hold the keys to these shores of promise, but we have never left off honoring the land. As our fathers knew, we honor the land by living in beauty and sharing with the stranger. May you never honor America less.

THE TRAIL OF TEARS

PLEASE NOTE:

ANGLOS: Super-duper patriots. Usually of mixed pedigree of any dozen European nationalities that do not include Mediterranean and Slavic groups, usually Protestants whose ancestors arrived on Mayflowers even as recent as 50 years ago. Many were Indian killers, Mexican and Jew haters, gold diggers and cattle rustlers and always "better" than any other American.

PLOWTS: Po' Lil Ol' White Trash. They are chauvinists to the core. They can be found all over the U. S., but concentrated in the dear ol' South. They are a purer breed even than the Anglos. The majority of them are responsible for the great number of mulattos, a diversion they deny their own sisters, but these "lover boys" call those who do not see their way "Nigger Lovers". Both categories number among their followers such who attended institutions of higher learning or such who never finished grade school; people of wealth, high position in government or just plain bums, and all suffer the disease called "narrowness of mind." As a result there are educated ignoramuses (or is it "ignorami"?), influential ignoramuses and just plain ignoramuses.

This was to have been an impartial history of the Americans. However, I made a mistake. I went to the Denver library's fourth floor (research) reading books about Indians, those on the shelves and those under lock. The more I read the angrier I became. The result is an article of anger and passion at the Anglo and at his Christianity. No wonder they call the story of the Amerindian "The Trail of Tears".

The Trail of Tears started soon after Columbus set foot on the Western hemisphere. The Caribs were enslaved and wiped out. The flourishing Aztec and Inca civilizations were destroyed. The Anglos behaved even worse. Their dealings with the Amerindian consisted of treachery, cheating, broken pledges uprooting and slaughter. As I read I couldn't help noticing that each author, whether he wrote about the Sioux, Cherokees, Cheyennes, etc., added: "This was a dismal chapter of the American history". By far too many were dismal chapters. They reveal the Anglo as an intolerant individual.

When one delves into the history of the Mayflower immigrants we find that altho they escaped English persecution to worship here in freedom and liberty, they meant freedom for their own brand of Puritanical Christianity. They had no room for any person not conforming to their views, no room for Christmas, music, dancing... they were a dour and narrow-minded group whose descendants hanged Quakers, hunted witches, slaughtered Indians, hated the Irish, slew Mormons, and lynched Negroes (altho the Negroes came to Jamestown a year before the Puritans). The Ku Klux Klan, a pure Anglo organization, was the very first hate-group. Now, the Po' Lil Ol' White Trash (PLOWTS for shorts) are continuing this insanity of hate, shaming the U. S. and its citizens to the entire world. They call themselves "Christians", but if Christianity means "hate" then the best thing for all is to discard it as rapidly as possible.

However, this is NOT Christianity, at least not the Christianity of the Lord Jesus and Saint Paul. The Lord Jesus preached that only such who have love for one another are his disciples. "Love ye one another as I have loved you. Love your enemies. Anyone can love a friend, but love your enemies!.. In Christ there is no Greek or Jew, no slave or freed, no North or South, etc..." But what do the PLOWTS do? Exactly the opposite. They don't even

admit another brother Christian to their church! And should Jesus appear again, as they so firmly believe, he better not return as a bearded, orthodox Jew whose Kashrut observing parents were Mary and Joseph. There will be no room for a Jew in most Christian places, even if he be Jesus Christ himself. For preaching about the brotherhood of man the lilly-white PLOWTS, before lynching the Founder of their religion, would jeer, tar and feather, kick the hapless form — things that not even the Romans did — and throw him in jail along with thousands of Negro children. And Jesus will say: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for such is the kingdom of God."

Since the Christian heaven will be denied to the PLOWTS they will have to avail themselves of the Hindu form of transmigration of the soul. However, because the PLOWTS spent their lives sowing hate they will be unable to be reborn as human beings. They will be reincarnated into the animal world: packs of wolves, howling hyenas, or snarling dogs to be used against Negroes.

The American whites could prevent this type of intolerance if they desired. The PLOWTS are few, altho the shame they heap upon the American nation is great. If the white majority showed their disgust with an ardor equal to the PLOWTS at a lynching or at a desegregation prevention gathering, the little Hitlers would have never dared raise their ugly head.

Says the Grand Shaman of the PLOWTS... The rest of the world has no business to concern itself with what goes on in South, not if they get foreign aid, 25% of which comes from the south. And what percentage of those taxes was paid by the Negroes — for the privilege of being abused?

In the light of what is going on now, Anno Domini 1957-1963, a very modern era of great advancement, one can see that the temperament of the Anglo could not have been less brutal with less qualm on the white's conscience. The brutality was greater, for it involved helpless women and children.

General George Crook blamed the slaughter on the "Greed and avarice on the part of the whites... it at the bottom of nine tenths of all our Indian troubles." This may be true in 80% of the cases. We can see that Indians were able to survive in their ancestral locations in places where the land was too barren, where there was no gold or oil found, like the vast holdings of the Navajo's, Papagos, Hopis and others in New Mexico, (and in their case also thanks to the fact that their occupation by the Anglo was of less duration.). But the Central California Indians were annihilated during the short period of the gold rush, others everywhere were uprooted, reduced or completely destroyed.

The Cherokees were a mighty nation with vast holdings through the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, etc. They were a civilized, law-abiding group who developed their own script and published their own newspapers. They were friends of the U. S. But friendship meant nothing where white greed was concerned. Seven thousand troops under the command of General Winfield Scott raided their land and at the point of the bayonet dragged away they Cherokees from their homes, from their beds, from the fields, from the dinner table; the strong and weak, the old and young, the women and the children; 17,000 were herded into stockades. Their homes were looted and burned, their cattle destroyed, their farms set to fire and they were made to march through the cold winter months of 1838-39, fording freezing rivers under conditions the likes of which were not seen again until Hitler's and Stalin's era. Four thousand died along the way before they even reached their exile in Oklahoma. In Washington D. C. President